**Board Report Jim Knott –High School Principal**

**Douglas County West Community Schools October 8, 2018**

As we move towards mid-October, several exciting things are happening or are coming up at Douglas County West High School. Parent-teacher conferences will be held on October 8th and 10th. Typically our attendance has been around 100 parents who attend over the two evenings. Although the nature of parent-teacher conferences has changed over the years since the advent of Powerschool and other similar student management systems, we still believe parents meeting face-to-face with their son or daughter’s teachers has great value.

On Wednesday, September 26, we held our fall testing day for high school students. Seniors had the day off, Juniors took the Pre-ACT in the morning while freshmen and sophomores took the MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) tests throughout the day. High School Counselor, Mr. Michael, said, “The Pre-ACT is a great opportunity for students and staff to prepare for the statewide ACT test in the spring. Students will get their results back in a few of weeks. These results show the high and low points from each individual’s test. Students and teachers can then work on the areas where they didn’t score as highly in preparation for the state-wide ACT test in the spring (April 2, 2019). The MAP tests for freshman and sophomores provide parents, students, and teachers academic data in the areas of math, reading, language, and science. High School math teacher and MAP test coordinator Ms. Heather Cox stated, “MAP scores from the fall help us identify students who may need extra help in certain areas in our classes and gives students and staff an ACT “predictor” which helps with preparation for the junior, state-wide ACT. Fall MAP scores are also used as a baseline to compare with scores in the spring to show academic growth over the school year and can be used to help place students in the correct math and English courses.”

This fall we added a new class to our course catalog called Freshman Seminar. This class was created to add another level of support for students that struggled academically in middle school but did not qualify for special education services. The idea was to create a small study environment that was supported by a teacher who is adept at forming positive student relationships. Mr. Maline teaches two sections of Freshman Seminar and offered the following commentary about the class. “Freshman seminar has given kids a unique chance to have some extra study time in an inviting and supportive environment. We have incorporated a curriculum (SMARTS) that has already helped kids figure out how their brains function.  This class has made it possible for kids that might initially struggle in high school to have a better chance to succeed academically and learn how to make their own way.”

Included on the second page of this report is an email on that I received in August from the parent of a 2018 graduate. It highlights the advantages students can gain by taking as many dual credit and AP classes as possible in high school.

August 19, 2018 email from Michelle Saub regarding her daughter Simeon who graduated from DC West in May of 2018.

*I wanted to thank you and tell you how grateful I am for the education Simeon received at DC West.*

*Simeon is starting college life tomorrow at University of Alabama. We discovered that with all of her dual enrollment classes as well as the French classes she was allowed to take, that she is considered a second semester sophomore. They took 40 transfer credits. She is double majoring in dance and French. She also was accepted into their graduate MBA program. She is going to be able to graduate with both undergraduate degrees and her Masters in Business Administration in 4 years. AND… it is all covered under her scholarship.*

*We were just blown away. The administration at Alabama told us it is not common for high schools to allow as much college level work as what you all allowed Simeon to access.*

*Thank you again! We are so grateful for you and the quality education you have given Simeon.*

*Sincerely,*

*Michelle Misek-Saub*